



The Rotary Club of Whangarei

(Chartered 1925)

District 9910

Chronicle for 11 December 2013



Int President Ron Burton

President - Peter Mulhare, President Elect & Secretary- Gail Taylor, , Treasurer - Peter Bayne, Chronicle - Andrew Bax, Community – Andrew Bax, International - Roger Barber, Programme –Rex Morris, Almoner - George Wilson, Historian - Lloyd Morris, Website - Andrew Bax, Board Member – Bill Rossiter, Board Member – Frank Geddes, District Governor – Phil Ashton, Assistant Governor – Peter Smith

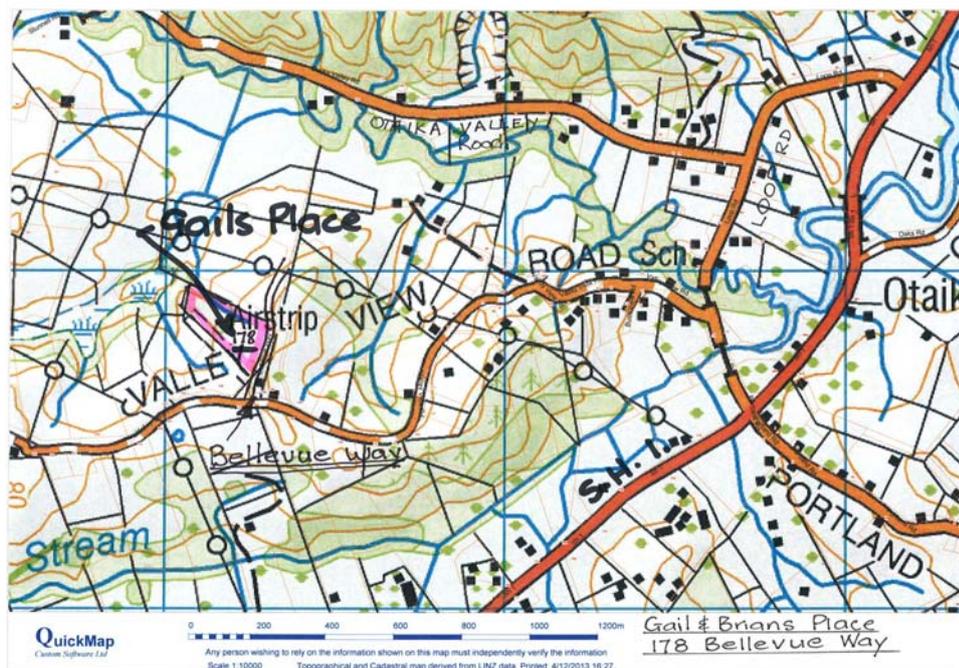
President Peter welcomes Members and guest to out Christmas meeting

Appologies :- Rex, Peter B, Buster, Bill & Alison, Dianne,

President Peter asked all present to stand and introduce themselves.

One minute notices

- o Raffle is well under way – We have confirmed our spot at Harvey Normans for 26th & 27th Dec – We need all hands on deck for those busy days.
- o We are having another quiz night at the Tikipunga Football club rooms on 1 March 2014- we need prizes so everyone bring a prize along.
- o Last meeting for the year is 18 Dec and which will be a BBQ at Gail's new House. President Peter will be inducting a new member



Thank you to Pat for supplying the Christmas raffle, Mike held no prisoners when it came to selling them and I heard him telling Pat that he has fleeced everyone for about \$140, well done. Also a big thank you to Gail for coordinating the meal. All agreed, it was superb and better than we would have received anywhere else.

A big surprise for yours truly.
Peter presents Rotarian of the year to me!!
It came out of left field but was very much appreciated.



Christmas Message from Pat

A couple of years ago when I was invited to give this talk, Mike and I had just been to Israel and the places associated with the Christmas story were very fresh in my mind.

This year has been totally domestic for us but extremely busy and we are looking forward to a couple of weeks at the beach with family.

Accepting the invitation today drew my mind back to our visit to the Syrian Israeli border, just another barren ridge overlooking the beautiful Galilee Valley. The only sign that we were on the border of another land was the gently fluttering Syrian flag. Even so it seemed to give meaning and we stayed firmly on the Israel side having been warned that there were lookouts and watch posts everywhere.

Today the border is covered with military and everywhere Syrian people look for ways across from a land of terror and warzone, the reality of which we can only imagine from the brief glimpses we get in the daily news.

History shows the region to have always been tempestuous.

The Christmas story as we know it was shrouded in threat, warfare, power broking, infanticide and Christian flight, it is a story of the history of its time, drawing on the mix of legend, fact and expedience. The emergence of the nativity story was a plea for peace and a search for hope. That hope has been a beacon in dark times in succeeding ages and believe it or not, it influences our lives.

Every faith / belief has its Christmas story. Here in New Zealand we are often drawn to the feast of Diwali of the Hindu people for instance and the colourful lantern festival has been part of life for many years, as children in Dunedin, we usually joined the Dutch community in early December as we accompanied St Nicholas to the town hall where there were gifts for all. So all of us wherever we come from and whatever our belief, have our Feasterville of hope, of promise, of family, of joy, of fun together. We give gifts, we create feasts of food and drink, we decorate and light up our homes, we talk and play and reminisce and we take at least a day to be away from the preoccupations of our daily lives. Hopefully too we can spare a thought for and take a moment of reflection to be with the people of Syria, Israel and the lands where this story started, real people, people Mike and I met and know, whom may know hope and find peace.

Happy Christmas to everyone and may 2014 be all we hope it will be

Thanks was given by Lloyd who employed a young Pat a few years ago as a funeral celebrant. Pats story brought back memories as Lloyd & Colleen were in Israel last year.

Interest Spot

This email was returned to President Peter

“Good evening Peter,

Following up your email of November 7th, that is wonderful news that your club has decided to donate \$1000 to the ROMAC proposal. I am sorry for the delay in my response, but hopefully the reasons for the delay will become clear with this email.

Originally we applied for District Grants to match the money from Clubs donations. However, we were so successful, raising over \$27,000, that the District Grants Committee requested we take a different approach, namely to combine it with the Global Grant we were planning for ROMAC. District is going to donate additional District Funds (DDF) to the project of approximately 50% of the Club donation, which in turn will be matched to the same amount from The Rotary Foundation. In addition the Club donation will be matched 50% by the Rotary Foundation. So your \$1000 will result in approx. \$2500 going towards the project. Putting this together with DDF money donated by Districts in Korea we will have a project to fund the surgery for all eight children from Vanuatu in the ROMAC plan for this year.

The exact details of the project will depend on how successful we are in securing support from Korea, some of which still has to be confirmed. We will keep you informed.

In the meantime, I am attaching the invoice you requested.

Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Angela (Bowey)
Fund Raising Coordinator,
ROMAC NZ Committee.”

That’s “Rotary in Action”

Duty Roster (a.m – 11:30 for noon, p.m. – 5:30 for 6:00pm)				
Lunch first dinner second – 1st Wed lunch 2nd dinner etc Notify Club of apologies – 4387429 (by Tuesday)				
Duties	18 Dec (pm)	29 Jan (am)	Hospital	
Speaker	BBQ at Gail’s new house	BBQ at the Club	Gail	
Host	Everyone	None		
Thanks	None	None		
Reception	Everyone	None		
Raffle	none	None		
Parting Thought	Peter M	Peter M		

Parting thought from Peter M

“An army of deer led by a lion is more to be feared than an army of lions led by a deer”